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Vanishing Act

It may not be much else, but the New Orleans investigation by District Attorney Jim Garrison is wonderful show business. It's the best act since Houdini made an elephant disappear.

Garrison thinks the Warren Commission is all wrong, that a bunch of anti-Castro adventurers killed Kennedy in Dallas, and that the CIA knows who they were.

"There is no question at all about the fact," he declares in a confident phrase, "that Lee Harvey Oswald did not fire a shot there."

The Garrison technique is to offer a theory, then show why all the evidence to support it is absent. First, he says, the real assassins can't be located because the CIA is making every effort to block him from trailing them. Then he explains that two-man teams of killers were firing from several directions at the Presidential car, but no empty rifle shells have been found because "the role of the second man in each case was to pick up the actual cartridges, taken on the bounce so to speak, so that the cartridges could be disposed of as quickly as the guns . . ."

Why weren't all these bullets located at the scene? "It appears they used frangible bullets," Garrison suggests. In other words, a special exploding variety that vanished in thin air, like the rifles, the cars, the suspects, and any stray witnesses to document this tale.

Garrison may not be getting many convictions these days, but he's wonderful at story-telling and sleight-of-hand. Maybe Disneyland could use him.